



Union des associations européennes de football



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UEFA relocates matches to neutral venues

Three games switched for security reasons

UEFA's Emergency Panel, meeting today in Brussels, has decided, in light of the current security situation, to switch three European club games due to be played in Turkey over the next two weeks to neutral venues outside of the country.

The games concerned are: Galatasaray SK - Juventus (UEFA Champions League); Maccabi Haifa FC - Valencia CF (UEFA Cup) and Besiktas JK - Chelsea FC (UEFA Champions League).

The decision comes in the wake of the recent terrorist attacks of 15th and 20th November in Istanbul and follows a broad evaluation of the current threat to security, the advice offered by a variety of governments, including the assurances offered by the Turkish Government, and the investigations still being undertaken by the relevant authorities.

Taking everything into account the Emergency Panel felt that it was in the overall interests of clubs, players, fans and European football in general to move these particular ties at this time. Steps will now be taken to establish the venues and dates for these matches.

Commenting on the decision UEFA CEO, Gerhard Aigner, said:

"This has not been an easy decision. The Emergency Panel has to evaluate all the available evidence while focussing on the safety and security of the participants and fans in UEFA's competitions. Given the proximity to recent tragic events and the uncertain security situation the Panel feels it is right to switch these particular ties to neutral venues at this time."

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